

**WHY
DOES
LOCAL
CHURCH
MATTER?**

WHY POWER AND PRESENCE MATTERS



JESUS' COMMISSION TO THE CHURCH

THE TWELVE

LUKE 9:1-2

When Jesus had called the **Twelve** together, **he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons** and to **cure diseases**, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

THE SEVENTY TWO

LUKE 10:1-8

After this the Lord appointed **seventy-two** others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. . . .
8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 **Heal the sick who are there** and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

ALL BELIEVERS

MARK 16:15-18

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And **these signs will accompany those who believe**: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

JESUS QUESTION

LUKE 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. . . . And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' . . . 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the **Son of Man** comes, **will he find faith on the earth?"**



**THE EARLY CHURCH'S COMMON
EXPERIENCE AND THEOLOGY**

ACTS 2:43

Everyone was filled with awe at the **many wonders** and **signs** performed by the apostles.

ACTS 5:12

The apostles performed **many signs** and **wonders** among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.



PETER'S USUAL MODUS OPERANDI

<p>Acts 3</p>	<p>In Jerusalem - Peter and John heal the crippled beggar outside the temple</p>	<p>5,000 more believers are added to the church through Peter's sermons about this miracle</p>
<p>Acts 5:1-10</p>	<p>In Jerusalem - Ananias and Sapphira lie about how much money they were giving and die one by one at the feet of Peter.</p>	<p>Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events</p>

Acts 5:14-15

In Jerusalem - As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Acts 5:17-21

In Jerusalem - Peter and John are delivered from jail by an angel

More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

Acts 9:32-34

In Lydda -Peter heals Aeneas, a paralytic who has been bedridden for 8 years

All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:36-41

In Joppa - Peter raised a woman Dorcas - Tabitha from the dead - taking her hand he lifted her upon and gave her back to her family and friends

This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.



PAUL'S USUAL MODUS OPERANDI

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5

4 My message and my preaching were **not with** wise and persuasive words, **but with** a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 **so that your faith might not rest** on human wisdom, but **on God's power**.

EPHESIANS 6:9-11

10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Acts 13:6-12

In Paphos - confrontation with a local sorcerer Elymas - made blind

When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Acts 14:8-18

In Philippi - Paul drives out a spirit of divination from a slave girl - - - after being imprisoned a violent earthquake broke everyones chains

The jailer and his entire family are saved - he later became one of the chief leaders of the city

Acts 19

In Ephesus - v "11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them."

Many believed and came forward to confess their occult involvement - burning occult books and paraphernalia - the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power

Acts 28

In Malta - bitten by a venomous snake - no effect - welcomed into the home of Publius, the chief official of the island - Paul heals his father - the rest of the islands sick came to be healed

When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

ROMANS 15:18-20

18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said **and done**— 19 **by the power of signs and wonders**, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, **I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.**



CHURCH FATHERS **MODUS OPERANDI**

“For some [Christians] do certainly and **truly drive out devils**, so that those who have thus been cleansed from evil spirits frequently both believe [in Christ], and join themselves to the Church. **Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions, and utter prophetic expressions.** Others still, **heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole.**”

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons: Irenaeus Against Heresies, Book II, 32:4, 190 A.D. (studied under bishop Polycarp, who in turn had been a disciple of Apostle John)

“And now yon (Roman Senate) can learn this from what is under your own observation. For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city, **many of our Christian men exorcising them** in the Name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, **have healed and do heal**, rendering helpless and driving the demons out of the men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs.”

Justin Martyr, Second Apology, Ch. 6

“Let any one be brought before your tribunals, who it is agreed is possessed by a demon. That spirit, when commanded to speak by any Christian you like to select, will as truly confess that he is a demon, as elsewhere he will falsely claim to be a god. In exactly the same way let any one of those be produced who are deemed to be under the influence of a god... [If] these deities of yours do not confess themselves demons, not daring to lie to a Christian, you may there and then shed the blood of that most insolent Christian. What could be plainer than a fact like this?

Tertullion, Apology, Ch. 23, (197 A.D.),

What could be more trustworthy than a proof of this nature? The simplicity of truth is before your eyes; its own virtue attends it there; suspicion is altogether out of the question... And all this dominion of ours and power over them derives its force from the Naming of Christ, and from the enumeration of those judgments which they apprehend are threatening them from God through Christ the Judge. Dreading Christ in God and God in Christ, they [demons] render obedience to the servants of God and Christ.

Tertullian, Apology, Ch. 23, (197 A.D.),



MODERN DAY UNBELIEF

COMING BACK TO JESUS QUESTION

LUKE 18:8

8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the **Son of Man** comes, **will he find faith on the earth?**"

1. **GOD HAS STOPPED DOING WONDERS**

(although Holy Spirit is everywhere He doesn't do miracles anymore)

2. **GOD DOES WONDERS SOVEREIGNLY**

(God does work miracles still but without human agency)

3. **GOD IS STILL DOING WONDERS**

(Holy Spirit uses faithful ministers to demonstrate His power)

LUKE 10:17-20

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 **I have given you authority** to trample on snakes and scorpions and **to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.** 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

1. DUNAMIS

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

- strength power, ability
- inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth
- power for performing miracle

2. EXUOSIA

MATTHEW 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

- the power of choice (leave or permission to)
- authority (influence) and of right (privilege)

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